

96-98

From: beth@cehca.org
To: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Mike Powell, Commissioner
Adelstein, ncg5@pacbell.net
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 2:51 PM
Subject: phone monopoly

Message from turn webmaster

1 main

Dear FCC Commissioner:
Elimination of competitive access to
wholesale phone networks
will kill local competition and leave
consumers with the worst of both
worlds, an unregulated monopoly.
Please reject the Bells self serving
proposals to eliminate
the UNE-Ps, which would pave the
way for a bigger, meaner phone
monopoly unrestrained by regulatory
oversight.

Sincerely,

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From: beth@cehca.org
To: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Mike Powell, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 4:30 PM
Subject: Reject Bells' Monopoly Bid

Message from TURN

1 main st.

Dear FCC Commissioner: Elimination of competitive access to wholesale phone networks will kill local competition and leave consumers with the worst of both worlds, an unregulated monopoly. Please reject the Bells self serving proposals to eliminate the UNE-Ps, which would pave the way for a bigger, meaner phone monopoly unrestrained by regulatory oversight.

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From: Wendy Bardsley
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 7:58 AM
Subject: Don't allow monopoly of media channels

Dear Commissioner Powell:

Numerous reports agree that the Federal Communications is planning to loosen longstanding rules governing control of the media that bring news and views to the American public. This will inevitably lead to monopoly, by a few large corporate giants, of TV stations, newspapers, and broadcast networks.

I urge you, Commissioner Powell, to halt immediately any implementation of these these FCC plans that threaten public access to diverse views and information.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bardsley
1018 York St
San Francisco, CA 94110

DO YOU YAHOO! Get your free @yahoo.com address at
<http://mail.yahoo.com>

From: ANTHONY FORTINO
To: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 7:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: Preserve Line Sharing

From: ANTHONY FORTINO
To: afortino@comcast.net
cc:
Subject: Fwd: Preserve Line Sharing

From: ANTHONY FORTINO
To: Mike Powell
cc:
Subject: Preserve Line Sharing

Dear Commissioner

Please keep line sharing as is. Eliminating line sharing will lead to less choice and competition, and higher prices for consumers and small business for broadband services.

It also would slow the penetration of broadband services across the country delaying key benefits that can help the economy.

Thank you for your support of competition.

Sincerely,

Anthony P. Fortino
Rochester Hills, Michigan

From: Dave Little
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 4:29 PM
Subject: A request

Mr. Adelstein,

Please don't allow monopolies like Clear Channel to continue to ruin radio. It is not in the public interest.

Thank you,

Dave Little

From: Sean Lanksbury
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 1:45 PM
Subject: FCC protect media independence

Dear Commissioner Powell:

One of the basic elements which help to keep the American media at least partially free and independent is the set of FCC regulations restricting consolidation and monopolies.

In the 2002 Biennial Review, the FCC appears to be planning to roll back many of these protective regulations: the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, the National Broadcast Ownership Cap, the Local Radio Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule and the Dual Network Rule.

Relaxation or abandonment of the preceding rules will result in the purchase of local and independent newspapers and radio and television stations by large media giants. The cost to the American People and Democracy will be far too high if local news, reportorial freedom and access to a true variety of legitimate views are further compromised.

Commissioner Powell, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Lanksbury

From: Barbara Messana
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 10:22 AM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Openness in the Media and on the Internet

Barbara Messana
NECC
Haverhill, MA 01845

February 12, 2003

Federal Communications Commission Chair Michael K. Powell
445 12th St SW
Rm 8-A204
Washington, DC 20554

Chair Powell:

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for ensuring that the media serve the public interest. I am concerned that the FCC is acting on behalf of big business rather than the people.

One of the corner stones of democracy is free press. I can see by your actions that you do not believe in a real democracy. It is clear that the FCC, headed by you, has stepped up its efforts to de-regulate the media and telecommunications industries ensuring that those of us who are not "in the know" remain so...the word propaganda comes to mind. You must act now to halt further media consolidation and to preserve the openness and diversity of all media and the Internet.

As a woman, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society. Ownership consolidation is squeezing out what little diversity remains in the marketplace.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy, viable democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues and you know it. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that ALL voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Remember U.S. consumers and citizens (We The People) when you review any further regulations. The media giants (and you are perfectly aware of this) already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

Barbara Messana

From: Anthony Maniscalco
To: Anthony Maniscalco
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 8:01 PM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Miller
Senator Chambliss
Representative Norwood
Message text follows:

Anthony Maniscalco
315 River Bridge Trail
Cornelia, GA 30531

February 12, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Anthony Maniscalco

From: Charles W Rhodes
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 2:01 AM
Subject: democracy and media ownership restrictions

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

Please vote against the relaxing of media ownership laws.

Please do not allow the robber-barons of media to further consolidate media ownership in America. This cannot be good for democracy, and it is your job to guard against the tyranny of a situation where all significant America media are in the hands of a few billionaires.

Below is a letter I've sent to many in Congress.

Thank You

Chuck Rhodes

Letter:

The FCC is about to change the rules that limit the ability of a single entity to own multiple media outlets in a given region or market.

These rules were created in the 40's in order to prevent a small group of people from monopolizing our media. Of course, for the most part, it's too late. But to allow the FCC to do undo these last remaining safeguards would be a great loss to our stability and security.

We need many more voices in our democracy. Currently, 10 wealthy corporations own 90% of the media capacity in the US. It is not an exaggeration to say that the ultra wealthy already control what most people hear. And these ultra wealthy are the same people giving large political contributions and getting people elected to office - to do their bidding.

So, when too few voices dominate, the media are unresponsive to complaints about the federal government, and unwilling to take up legitimate causes and inquiries that challenge the federal government.

When the media do not question and appropriately embarrass the federal government, the government becomes unresponsive to citizens and increasingly corrupt. The media and government are already unresponsive to very legitimate, widely held grievances.

When grievances go unaddressed, resentment, alienation and disenfranchisement build. The result is often instability and violence - or as in our current situation; egregious spin, omission, distraction and intimidation from an increasingly monolithic media-government. Of course this deception will only hold back public resentment temporarily.

And the situation is going from bad to worse...

The Bush administration is systematically dismantling the checks and balances necessary for our democracy to work:

There is a blatant sell-out of our federal government to big industry. (Enron wrote our national energy policy; pharmaceuticals get the Congress to maximize their profits, the feds install a Unocal executive as president of Afghanistan to insure success of a new pipeline, etc.)

There's the abuse of secrecy (Cheney's Enron notes, permanent impoundment of presidential papers).

There are the foxes in the henhouses (Gale Norton, Harvey Pitt, John Poindexter, Henry Kissinger, etc)

There are the Religious extremists in positions of great power (Ashcroft, Rumsfeld, Carl Rove, Bush himself, etc.).

There are the blatant conflicts of interests (Bush and the Carlyle Group; Cheney and Haliburton, etc.).

There is the intimidation of Congress through warmongering.

There is the ongoing packing of judicial positions with strident pro-wealth political allies.

There is the widespread placement of religious ideologues into government/council positions of great scientific authority.

There is the widespread placement of religious ideologues into important policy making positions, especially with regard to women's' health and reproductive matters.

There is systematic intimidation and disenfranchisement of minority voters (The Florida "felon"-purge, misinforming and intimidation of Florida and other southern minorities, voting machine fraud, etc.)

There is intentional creation of federal budget deficits so that later deep cuts in Social Security, Medicare, and all social programs will seem unavoidable. This is deliberate deception by the Executive and Legislative branches.

There is the proposed Faith-Based Charity program which would give government money to churches, surely to include the Democrat-hating Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Sun Myung Moon, a big Bush family benefactor. So the wall of separation between church and state will be undermined.

There is increased spying on American citizens - in the past, these spying frenzies have turned into operations focusing on political dissidents.

There is the erosion of habeas corpus, and the recent decision of the FISA court to allow federal spying on citizens for domestic matters as well as the traditional foreign matters. This gives Ashcroft a secretive way around the traditional court system for obtaining warrants - no public record.

And of course, there are the thousands of right-wing radio programs, spreading hatred and intolerance toward anyone who espouses a compassionate or progressive social agenda, and spurring death threats against outspoken liberals. We need the FCC to strengthen and enforce ownership rules and start looking for other ways to foment diversity and civility in our airwaves. The equal time law has been abandoned, and needs to be reinstated.

Don't you realize where all this abuse of power is leading? Do you have the conviction and courage to stand for what is right, like the late Paul Wellstone?

The wealthy cannot lead this nation by themselves. Their attempt to do so will end in disaster unless people in positions of authority and power begin to turn the tide back toward real democracy. It will take courage and conviction to re-establish democracy, and it will take many dedicated people with these qualities. But the spiritual rewards will be great for those who take up this most honorable of causes.

I am a 48-year-old 21-year employee of Public Service of Colorado (Xcel Energy), make over \$100k per year, and am an influential voice in my community. I was an architect of Xcel's Windsource program and of the Renewable Energy Trust. I have won Denver-wide awards for music composition and theatre work. I have two children plus a wife, I own two guns, own a home plus a separate 35-acre parcel of mountain land, drive a pick-up truck, do carpentry, believe in a higher power, give money to homeless individuals, and I vote in every election.

Speak up against this unraveling of our democracy (any aspect of it), bolster what remains of our safeguards against tyranny, and I'll speak up for you!

I demand my democracy back!

Respectfully, Sincerely and Urgently,

Chuck Rhodes

Denver

From: Billie Toalson
To: Billie Toalson
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 11:07 AM
Subject: Proposed FCC Changes Cost Consumers

Message sent to the following recipients:

Senator Hutchison
Senator Cornyn
Representative Bonilla
Message text follows:

Billie Toalson
PO Box 166
Moore, TX 78057-0166

February 12, 2003

[recipient address was inserted here]

[recipient name was inserted here],

The Federal Communications Commission is considering taking actions that will restrict consumer choice by deregulating local phone service.

Millions of Americans like me could have their phone service threatened if the local phone companies aren't required to allow competitors access to the market. I'm also concerned about the Commission's move to relieve all broadband Internet access facilities of open access obligations.

Both of these key decisions will limit my choices as a consumer by lessening competition, diminishing cost savings and threatening consumer protections. As a constituent, I urge you to support competition and open access for local phone service.

Sincerely,

Charles & Billie Toalson

From: Werberg, Sam
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Feb 12, 2003 12:38 PM
Subject: FCC Public Hearing on Media Consolidation

Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein,

Given that as a citizen of the United States I own the spectrum used and licensed by radio and television companies, and given that the FCC is charged with regulating, not "deregulating" the communications industry, I must say that I am a bit disturbed that you are only holding one official public hearing on the issue of media consolidation and that this meeting is being held in Virginia. Neither the time nor the place are convenient for me nor, I would guess, for many other media consumers and working people who wish to voice their opinion on what is likely the most important decision facing the commission in years. I would like to remind the Chairman that most of the people who will be affected by any possible media consolidation do not have access to lawyers and lobbyists who can attend these meetings for us and make sure our opinions are heard. The companies that stand to gain handsome profits from such media consolidation can certainly afford the lawyers and lobbyists to not only attend this specific meeting, but also to lobby the FCC on a daily basis. Those of us who have to work to support our families do not have such a luxury.

I would request then, Chairman Powell, that you set an open official public hearing for New York City, and that this meeting be held in the evening so that working people and media consumers can attend. Certainly I would like to see the Commission hold official public hearings on this issue in every locality across the United States, but I will let the citizens of the rest of our country speak for themselves as to whether or not they would like a say on such a monumental issue. I await your prompt reply with the time and place of the meeting I am requesting.

Sam Werberg

2543 22nd St. #3F
Astoria, NY 11102

CC: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, FCC
FCCINFO, FOIA, MBINFO, Werberg. Sam, 'rep.carolyn.maloney@mail.house.gov'